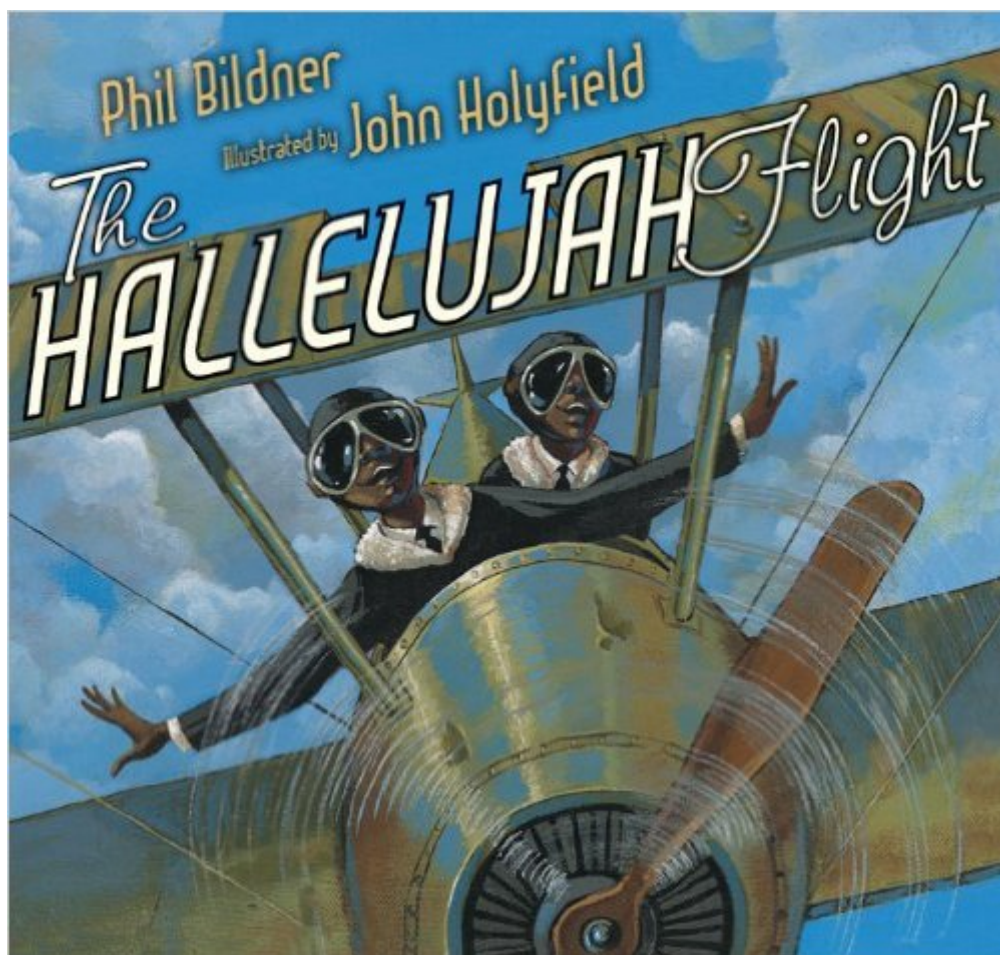


The book was found

# The Hallelujah Flight



## Synopsis

The extraordinary story of James Banning, the first African-American pilot to fly across country. During the Great Depression, the ace black pilot James Banning decided to fly from coast to coast to serve as an inspiration to people everywhere. So with a little ingenuity and a whole lot of heart, he fixed up the dilapidated OXX6 Eagle Rock plane with his co-pilot and mechanic, Thomas Allen, earning them the derisive nickname, "The Flying Hobos." But with the help of friends and family along the way who signed their names on the wings of the plane in exchange for food, fuel and supplies, Banning and Allen made it through treacherous weather and overcame ruthless prejudice to receive a heroes' welcome upon landing in New York on October 9, 1932. This exceptional story of determination and pride, shown through John Holyfield's energetic flight scenes and sweeping landscapes, will put you in the cockpit right alongside Banning and Allen as they complete the journey of a lifetime.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD760L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers; First Edition edition (January 7, 2010)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.3 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #598,262 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #256 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Censorship #668 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #918 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Author Phil Bildner and artist John Holyfield have produced an outstanding new picture book on little-known African-American aviator James Banning, the first black aviator to complete a trans-continental flight in 1932. Narrated by Banning's mechanic and co-pilot, Thomas Allen, the

book is based on the story of their journey, undertaken in an airplane that appeared to be barely flight-worthy. "The crew from the airport thought we'd about lost our marbles... 'The Flying Hoboes!' they all called us." Although they had almost no money for food and gasoline along the way, Banning decided that anyone who contributed any kind of supplies for their trip could write their name on the tip of the wing, getting into the history books along with the pilots. Sure enough, despite the hard times, people all along the way pitched in to help. But times were not only tough in terms of finances; racism also reared its ugly head along the route. In one stop, they were not allowed to use the restroom, and in another town no one would serve them at a diner. After a 3,300 mile and 21 day trip, the pilots arrive safely in Harlem, where they receive a hero's welcome, complete with ticker-tape parade. The art in this book is especially noteworthy, and you can get a sneak preview of some of the illustrations at the author's website. The artwork, done in acrylics, offers an exuberant style and features unusual perspectives, such as in a particularly joyful 2-page spread which shows the two pilots flying in their underwear over the California desert, where the pilots seem to be about to soar off the edge of the book!

James Banning stood on a box dreamily eyeing a dilapidated biplane. The propeller leaned up against the plane's sorry looking side and even a broken wing tip was ready to fall to the ground. Undeterred by the plane's condition, James turned to Thomas Allen and firmly stated, "Mr. Allen, my dream is to fly a plane from sea to shining sea, and this here OXX6 Eagle Rock is our plane." It was Thomas's job to fix it, but money sure was tight in those days. James had it all figured out and by hook or by crook they were going to do it. If people were allowed the privilege of signing their names to the wing tip, perhaps they would offer up a little bit of gas and some supplies. YES! That might just be the ticket. Of course everyone laughed and poked fun of them as they proudly worked on their crate and very soon they were dubbed the "Flying Hoboes." On September 19, 1932 they were aloft over the skies of Dycer Airport near Los Angeles, soaring through the clouds on the first leg of their journey. Clickety, clack, clickety clack! The plane rolled through the clouds as the daring duo completed the first leg of the trip. A little leak tested James's "signing" theory and soon they were off again. The open cockpits were hot and soon they were soaring over the mountains dressed only in muscle tees and drawers. Nothing would stop them. "Hallelujah," Thomas would yell. "Hallelujah right back at you!" was the reply. Yet there was something named "prejudice" that might put a halt to their trip. Would anything, including that, be able to stop the Hallelujah Flight? This once lost, but now found story about James and Thomas's Hallelujah Flight will thrill the reader.

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